

A study by the Harvard Civil Rights Project and the Urban Institute found that California’s reported graduation rate of 87 percent dramatically underestimates the actual number of dropouts. According to a report “Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis in California”, the researchers found that the actual graduation rate is probably closer to 71 percent. Graduation rates for minority students were lower: 57 percent for African Americans, 60 percent for Latinos and 52 percent for Native Americans. Rates for minority males dropped even lower.

The discrepancy in the State’s official graduation rate is that districts often report students who never receive diplomas as having transferred to another school and accurate data on dropouts are often unavailable.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors direct the Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE):

- 1. To compile statistics for:
 - a) High school and middle school drop out rates by all school districts within Los Angeles County;
 - b) Minority breakdown of graduation rates by school districts;
 - c) The method used to calculate graduation rates by school districts; and
- 2. To provide a detailed written report back to this Board within 60 days, to include measures and recommendations on how to increase the graduation rates for all districts within Los Angeles County.

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MOTION

BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

YBB:DH:dn(dropoutrates)